



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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SOUTHERN REGION

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GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
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May 25, 2000

Charles G. Brockway
Brockway Engineering
2016 N Washington St #4
Twin Falls, ID
83301

RE: Apps. For Transfer, Gerald Bashaw

Dear Chuck;

Per your request, I have reviewed Claims A37-00448D & E, and Rights 37-00237B & 00448. Watermaster records show that Mr. Bashaw owns 0.223 cfs of 00237B & 1.35 cfs of 00448 (0.046 cfs on the Castle property and 1.304 cfs on the main ranch). I suggest that Mr. Bashaw amend his SRBA claims to reflect this information.

With regard to the new map that you submitted, I found several problems. My GIS map of 4-26-00 is based on my site visit to the property and discussions with Mr. Bashaw. He told me that he only plans to run a small pivot south of the road, so it doesn't make sense to me to include land that he has no plans to irrigated. Your map also covers the Point of Rocks public access, which he does not even own. I reviewed all questionable areas with Bashaw, drawing outlines on FSA photos until he was satisfied with the results. I took my best guess at what he might irrigate in Sec. 8, since we parted company before I walked up to this area for a closer look. I presumed that he would want to irrigate flat ground instead of steep hillsides, and there is more of the former in the west tract; the parcel is not a nice, neat square as shown on your map. Your map includes some land in the NW/SE Sec. 17 that is now covered with a large building and wide driving area. You show land on the east side of the butte that is steep hillside; it would be difficult and illogical to water this area.

I GPS'd all of Bashaw's wells to verify their locations. Based on that data and my own observations, both the artesian well & the west well (SW/SW Sec. 17) are shown incorrectly on your map.

Whether I am preparing an application or reviewing one that has been prepared by someone else, I take it as part of my responsibility as a public servant to come up with

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accurate data that reflects both the historic water use and the proposed water use in accordance with the applicant's desires. In effect, I am working for the applicant during part of this process. I wouldn't be doing my job properly if I accepted incorrect data as "good enough". Since we are both working for Mr. Bashaw here, we should be able to reach the same conclusions. I believe that I understand what he wants, and my latest GIS map reflects this. As far as acreage determinations are concerned, GIS is certainly much better than the manual methods that I am familiar with. And since the GIS data that is developed will be incorporated directly into our new database, it is hard to argue with those numbers; the machine tells us how big something is, rather than us telling the machine like we used to do.

As far as my recommendation of a 662-acre limit on the PPU is concerned, this is the number generated by GIS based on my ability to move 1995 FSA data into our system. I can only report what the system tells me. I have discussed this with Allen, and he told me that we should go with the licensed acreage as long as it is within 5% of the GIS number. So I will be recommending a limit of 672 acres per year for the groundwater transfer. Although there is no written limit on the number of acres for the decreed rights, common sense tells me to recommend the same limit for both transfers.

The ball is back in your court.

Regards,

James E. Stanton
Sr. Water Resource Agent